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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to children removed from caregivers;  
 amending s. 39.523, F.S.; providing legislative  
 findings; requiring the Department of Children and  
 Families to adopt rules; requiring the department and  
 community-based care lead agencies to administer a  
 trauma screening within a specified timeframe to  
 certain children and provide certain followup actions  
 under certain circumstances; providing an effective  
 date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
 39.523, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (d),  
 paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
 (2) are amended, and a new paragraph (c) is added to subsection  
 (1) of that section, to read:

39.523 Placement in out-of-home care.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

(b) The Legislature ~~also~~ finds that there is an  
 association between placements that do not meet the needs of the  
 child and adverse outcomes for the child, that mismatching  
 placements to children's needs has been identified as a factor  
 that negatively impacts placement stability, and that

26 identifying the right placement for each child requires  
 27 effective assessment.

28 (c) The Legislature also finds that the timely  
 29 identification of and therapeutic response to acute presentation  
 30 of symptoms indicative of trauma can reduce adverse outcomes for  
 31 the child, aid in the identification of services to enhance  
 32 initial placement stability and of supports to caregivers, and  
 33 reduce placement disruption.

34 (2) ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT.—When any child is removed  
 35 from a home and placed in out-of-home care, a comprehensive  
 36 placement assessment process shall be completed in accordance  
 37 with s. 39.4022 to determine the level of care needed by the  
 38 child and match the child with the most appropriate placement.

39 (a) In accordance with rules adopted by the department,  
 40 the department or community-based care lead agency ~~or~~  
 41 ~~subcontracted agency with the responsibility for assessment and~~  
 42 ~~placement~~ must:

43 1. Coordinate a multidisciplinary team staffing as  
 44 established in s. 39.4022 with the necessary participants for  
 45 the stated purpose of the staffing.

46 2. Conduct a trauma screening as soon as practicable after  
 47 the child's removal but no later than 21 days after the shelter  
 48 hearing. If indicated as appropriate or necessary by the  
 49 screening, the department or community-based care lead agency  
 50 must, at a minimum:

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51 a. Promptly refer the child to appropriate trauma  
52 assessment, which must be completed within 30 days, and, if  
53 appropriate, services and intervention as needed. To the extent  
54 possible, the trauma screening, assessment, and services and  
55 intervention shall be integrated into the child's overall  
56 behavioral health treatment planning and services.

57 b. In accordance with s. 409.1415(2)(b)3.f., provide  
58 information and support, which may include but need not be  
59 limited to, consultation, coaching, training, and referrals to  
60 services, to the caregiver of the child to help the caregiver  
61 respond to and care for the child in a trauma-informed and  
62 therapeutic manner.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.